

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED IEA MINISTERIAL MEETING

EF: OECD PARIS 6004

1. AT MARCH 6-7 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING, US FORMALLY PROPOSED THAT AN IEA MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL BE HELD ON MAY 26 IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROPOSED DATES OF MAY 27-28 FOR ANNUAL OECD MINISTERIAL. WE NOTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER PLANS TO ATTEND BOTH MEETINGS. DUE TO SHORTNESS OF TIME GB LEFT FULL DISCUSSION AND DECISION TO NEXT GB MEETING ON MARCH 19-20. DURING BRIEF DISCUSSION SPAIN SUPPORTED OUR PROPOSAL AND SWITZERLAND ASKED FOR MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON PURPOSE OF MINISTERIAL.

2. US IS CONVINCED OF DESIRABILITY FOR IEA MINISTERIAL ON PROPOSED DATE. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD MAKE AN EARLY AND FORMAL DEMARCHE AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN SUPPORT OF THIS INITIATIVE. REACTIONS BY HOST GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE REPORTED BY PRIORITY CABLE.

3. ADDRESSEES SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING:

(A) SECRETARY KISSINGER CONTINUES TO CONSIDER A MAY 26 MEETING HIGHLY USEFUL FOR IEA MINISTERS TO ASSESS PROGRESS IN CONSUMER SOLIDARITY AND TO GIVE POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT TO NEXT STAGE IN THE EVOLVING DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCERS.

(B) WHILE THE US IS FLEXIBLE ON SPECIFIC TOPICS AND MODALITIES FOR IEA MINISTERIAL, OUR INITIAL THINKING IS THAT THE MEETING WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP MORE CLEARLY AT POLITICAL LEVEL OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY FOR PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE.

(C) TIMING OF SUCH A MEETING -- AFTER THE PREPCON AND BEFORE A FULL CONFERENCE -- WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS. IF WE MOVE NOW TO SCHEDULE IT WELL IN ADVANCE AND
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IN CONJUNCTION WITH OECD MINISTERIAL, WE MINIMIZE IT BEING LABELED AS CONFRONTATIONAL.

(D) THE IEA IS AN AGREED INSTRUMENT FOR CONSUMER COUNTRY COOPERATION AND IS DEMONSTRATING CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SPECIFIC ENERGY POLICY FORMATION REMAIN CLEARLY FOCUSED IN THE IEA AND THAT THESE EFFORTS NOT BE DILUTED OR PREEMPTED BY OTHER MINISTERIAL-LEVEL

DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS THE OECD MINISTERIAL.

4. FOR MADRID. IN VIEW GOS ACCEPTANCE OF IEA MINISTERIAL, EMBASSY NEED NOT MAKE DEMARCHE, BUT MAY NOTE OUR APPRECIATION FOR SPANISH SUPPORT. INGERSOLL

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